

Math Live – *Division of Whole Numbers*: Parent Notes

Grade: 5 **Strand:** Number **Outcome:** 6

Common mistakes students make:

In both multiplication and division, students make the most errors in the operations and basic facts. Encourage students to verify all of their answers using either a calculator or the inverse operation. Secondly, students struggle to place numbers in the proper place value position and therefore end up adding or subtracting the wrong numbers. This is especially difficult when there are zeros as place-holders. Finally, in division, students often can't recognize the most reasonable choice of number to use in their quotient.

Ideas for more practice:

Have your student divide the number of pennies in a jar or candies in a bag, equally amongst their friends. Give your student real life problems so they think of the equation in context.

Literature Links:

Cookies (Jaspersohn, 1993): This story is about the production of Famous Amos cookies. It is filled with fun facts and figures about the production, distribution and consumption of these cookies. This story lends itself to computation questions and encourages estimation and rounding as the figures are sometimes very large